

Due to increase of rainfall this season, York County has ramped up its larvicide program. The county is using ALTOSID® Pellets WSP, an Insect Growth Regulator. WSP stands for Water Soluble Packet, as the larvicide pellets are stored in an inch wide clear packet that dissolves a few seconds after it gets wet. The larvicide is effective against the mosquito species found in the County. It is used to treat small bodies of water such as: catch basins, storm drains, ditches, tree holes, flooded crypts, fish ponds, woodland pools, fountains, septic tanks, ornamental ponds, manmade depressions, animal watering troughs, and other natural or artificial water-holding containers.



The active ingredient is Methoprene, an amber-colored liquid with a faint fruity odor which is essentially nontoxic to humans when ingested or inhaled. It is used in drinking water cisterns to control mosquitoes which spread dengue fever and malaria throughout the world. The product we use is black in color because it is placed on charcoal for a slow release.

Methoprene does not immediately kill insects. Instead, it acts as an insect growth regulator, mimicking natural juvenile hormone. Juvenile hormone must be absent for a pupa to molt to an adult, so Methoprene-treated larvae will be unable to successfully change into adults. Methoprene is considered a biological pesticide because rather than controlling target pests through direct toxicity, it interferes with an insect's lifecycle and prevents it from reaching maturity or reproducing.